

HENRY COLEMAN, SR. AND
MARY JANE THRELKELD
COLEMAN McCARRELL



MIDWAY BIOGRAPHIES

Henry Coleman, Sr. was born May 5, 1836 in Sherrington, Buckinghamshire, England, the son of George and Elizabeth Bailey Coleman. He married Mary Jane Threlkeld on November 30, 1860, in the Endowment House in Salt Lake City by Bishop Brinton. He died December 25, 1867, in Midway.

Mary Jane Threlkeld Coleman McCarell was born May 15, 1842, at Carlisle, Cumberland, England, the daughter of John and Elizabeth Barker Threlkeld. She married Henry Coleman November 30, 1860, in Salt Lake City. She married Joseph McCarell in 1873 in Midway. She died January 26, 1916, in Heber, and was buried in Midway.

Henry was the oldest son of his parents, who, with their family, had been converted to the Mormon Church. Henry was the first to come to Utah. He arrived in 1850 when he was only fourteen years of age. He came alone, his parents and the rest of the family remaining in England until later. He came across the ocean and to Utah with the Samuel Claridge Company. Upon reaching Utah, he made his home with Bishop David Brinton in Big Cottonwood, Salt Lake County.

Henry made several trips back across the plains to meet emigrants enroute to Utah. While on one of these trips he met a beautiful young English girl, Mary Jane Threlkeld. They fell in love and were married.

Young Henry was in the employment of Mr. William Howard of Cottonwood, Salt Lake County. While earning money he kept in mind that he would help his family come to Zion. In 1862 he sent passage money for his brothers William and Louis. The three brothers worked together putting part of their earnings in the emigration fund handled by the Church. By 1864 they, with what their parents had saved, had enough to bring the entire family to Utah.

Henry and Mr. Howard continued to work together. They made several business deals, one of which culminated in the purchase by Henry of a farm in Midway, which was held by his family until 1958. A sawmill on the farm was part of the purchase. He operated a store in connection with the mill. He developed a thriving lumber business. He and his wife spent their winters in Big Cottonwood, where he had acquired some property. Three of their four children were born in Big Cottonwood.

Henry died at a very early age. Shortly before his fourth child was born, he was

stricken with what they called brain fever. After only two days' illness, he died on Christmas Day at the age of thirty-one. The community, shocked and grieved by his death, cancelled all holiday celebrations. He was the first adult buried in the Midway Cemetery.

Henry was one of the promising young men of the valley. He was resourceful, honest, intelligent; his probity was unquestioned. He never had a picture of himself. It was said by those who remembered him that he was very good looking; he had brown hair and exceptionally beautiful blue eyes. He was a kind and generous gentleman.

Mary Jane Threlkeld spent her early life in England. She had a good education, was a talented singer and seamstress even as a young girl. She often told of the strict rules followed by her family members. Her father was meticulous in his dress. He changed his shirt front twice a day and his shoes were shined to a king's taste. The children ate at the same table with their parents only on occasion. However, they were a happy family. Mary Jane remembered seeing Queen Victoria, and also a public hanging in England.

Some members of the family joined the Mormon Church in England. Mr. and Mrs. Threlkeld and part of their family came to America. Mr. Threlkeld, a man of considerable means, was disappointed with the situation here and decided to return to England. Two of his daughters, Margaret and Mary Jane, did not want to go back. They went to the home of friends who kept them hidden until the family had left. They never saw their parents again. The two girls came to Utah in 1860 in the Francis Brown Company. Margaret had become engaged to Joel Johnson and married him upon their arrival in Utah. They settled in Southern Utah.

During the trip across the plains, Patrick Carroll and his wife Margaret were especially kind to the Threlkeld sisters. Mary Jane married Henry Coleman. She was widowed while pregnant with her fourth child. George and Margaret Bonner, Robert and Betty Ross, Robert and Maggie Cunningham, Attewall and Cynthia Wootton, and others befriended her during her widowhood.

Five years after the death of her husband, she married Joseph McCarell, a widower with seven children. She and Joseph had five more children. In order to retain the

dignity of an independent house and help care for so many children, Mary Jane took in sewing. She was an accomplished dressmaker, tailor and milliner. She trained her daughters to help with the sewing, and they in turn became efficient, capable and competent in their own right. Mary Jane appreciated fine and lovely things; she prospered in her dressmaking and millinery establishment.

She was an ardent Church worker. For many years she was first counselor to Cynthia Wootton in the Relief Society. She had charge of the making of burial clothes. She always sang in the choir. She helped raise a granddaughter, Lenore Baum. She died a highly respected and beloved woman. Her parents in England remained faithful to the Church. Her brother, John, came to Utah and settled in Salt Lake City.

Children of Henry and Mary Jane Threlkeld Coleman:

Mrs. Charles Alonzo (Elizabeth Barker) Epperson;

Henry Threlkeld married Emily Matilda Springer;

Mrs. Francis (Lucretia Howard) Greenwell;

Mrs. (Doctor) Alexander (Margaret Euphremia) McKendry.

The children of Joseph McCarell and Mary Jane Threlkeld Coleman:

Heber John died in infancy;

Mrs. James (Catherine Alice) Taylor, later married John Bee;

Mrs. Frank (Hester Elenore) Baum, later married Byran Rector;

Joseph Ernest married Cora Hiner;

George Theodore married Verla Mae McNaughton.